

## Richard Mansfield 2d's Poems



Richard Mansfield 2d, and His Mother.

By CONSTANCE MURRAY GREENE

IN the poetry of Richard Mansfield 2d we have another example of bright and eager promise cut off untimely. An only child, frail but determined though still a boy, he enlisted as a private in the American Aviation Signal Corps and died

at San Antonio after four months service at the age of 19. Through the imaginative and original verses contained in his little volume entitled *Courage*, it is possible at all times to read a personality rich in enthusiasm, alive to every impression and lovable in the extreme.

"He was always alert and for himself and his comrades his ardor was like a magical carpet," Witter Bynner says in his introductory note. "His poems remain a bright token of his impetuous life, distinguished from some of the more consciously literary poems of other soldier poets by their dramatic directness, with just enough technical knowledge, by their simple human gesture, their quick fervor of boyhood, their impatient demand that life be a sure, swift, happy thing."

At *Dinner in the Club With Some Pals*, he hears the orchestra and yearns for Barakeesh, his dream-city, thinks how far it is from the war and ends on a sadder note. "Yet—in an English lane

There is a cottage  
And in it an old woman  
With a young girl beside her  
Weeping before a faded photograph of a cheery youth  
In the uniform of a sergeant in the Yorkshires."

Poems of Barakeesh, a handful of war verses, some prose poems, several love songs to Hildreth and among the unclassified, his strongest work. One is struck by *Jack Harley, Respectable*, a protest against lack of courage, and nothing that he has done impresses us more than his "poem of most bitter hatred," very young and naive but real and captivating.

**COURAGE!** By RICHARD MANSFIELD 2ND.  
Moffat, Yard & Co. \$1.

"Tom and I on the Old Plantation"

MOTHER won't get much work out of any of the boys between 10 and 65 once they lay hands on *Tom and I on the Old Plantation*. That is, not until they have read the very last of the adventure stories that Archibald Rutledge presents in his new volume of tales of old plantation days—tales of the sort that whisk the reader far away and set him down breathless and expectant only a step behind Tom and his brother as they fare afield in quest of excitement.

You feel that actual events rather than fiction are presented in all of the sixteen stories that make up the volume, and the impression is heightened by the fact that the author dedicates the book to his brother, Thomas Pinckney Rutledge.

What are one's sensations when being charged by a huge bull alligator? The brothers found out when they caught the old monster of Hampton Island. What can it be like to be standing chest deep in the creek, feel firmly and inextricably planted in the mud, when the fin of a man eating shark is seen cutting the water almost at your elbow? One of the venturesome brothers learned to his horror, and the tale is told in *The Specter of Tiger Creek*.

The setting of the stories is wild and romantic, the old plantation having been situated on the lower Santee River in South Carolina. The long leaf pine forests, the swamps and brakes that are interspersed in it and the seacoast are all scenes of adventure. In addition to ex-

citement there are bits of quaint and quiet humor in some of the activities of the faithful negro servants.

The story of the battle with the red birds that resulted in saving the rice crop is an epic for the young reader to marvel over; the account of the fight with the wild white boar of Burnt Bay, in which a boy and a hound nearly lost their lives, is no less interesting. And when one of the brothers on his way to school comes upon the Witch Pond serpent—a fifteen footer—and advances to strike it on the head with a pine pole—whew!

*Tom and I on the Old Plantation* is a book for boys, including an old boy.

**TOM AND I ON THE OLD PLANTATION.**  
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